**Choose Me! Day 1 – 8th April**

**Why are we here?**

* To “market” languages more effectively
* To increase numbers in Stage 5
* To instil a love for Languages in the students
* To discuss the constant battle to get elective classes in Languages
* To work out how students can gain more Language knowledge
* To figure out: “Is it us”? or “Is it the cohort”? “Why are our numbers in Stage 5 so low”?
* To pick up useful tactics to compete with the other “fun” subjects
* To change or challenge the way language learning is perceived in our community
* To work out who the stakeholders are
* To explore the benefits of studying another language
* To work out how to get the “right kind of students” choosing Languages
* To discuss “Taster courses” vs “choosing blind”
* To discuss how to overcome the boredom factor when students have studied a language K-6
* To discuss ways to encourage students and parents to continue even if they find it difficult

**How can I enhance my current Languages programs for Stages 4 and 5?**

* Use current events as an organisational focus to make the language more relevant
* Create units based on student interest
* Embed differentiation strategies
* Make differentiation explicit
* Ensure that opportunities are provided for students to demonstrate progression
* Include authentic tasks which assess progression
* Ensure aims of the program/UOW are clear to students and parents
* Include clear student outcomes
* Include “putting it together” activities that provide a practical application
* Use cross-curricula material and culture of the target language ( eg: films)
* Link target language with syllabus outcomes in classroom situations (eg: use of imperatives)
* Use authentic resources
* Be less prescriptive
* Include extension up and across
* Be random! Program topics that yr8 would not normally study
* Include more ICT activities

**What are the compelling arguments for learning a language?**

* Improves your understanding of your own language
* Provides students with effective skills in communication
* Enables students to explore the relationship between target language and English
* Develops an understanding of culture associated with the target language
* Enriches cultural awareness
* Makes you special!
* Makes you stand out
* Gives you an advantage
* Gives you an edge
* By the end of Yr 10 you already have 80% of the mechanics of French. It would be a shame to abandon it after coming so far.
* Language learning appeals to both mathematically minded students and creative students:
* Grammar is logical
* Storytelling is creative
* **Key words/ideas:**
* **Opportunities**
* **Survival**
* **Adventure**
* **Different**
* **Communicate**
* **Connect**
* **Performance**
* **Challenge**
* **Travel**
* **Discovery**